

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Emily Gudbranson and I am a medical student in New Haven.

I stand in support of S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS. Expanding access to HUSKY up to age 18 regardless of immigration status is an important step in ensuring our immigrant community has access to the healthcare services they need. But our work doesn't end with expanding access up to age 18; we need to open access to HUSKY and healthcare to all immigrants of any age, including parents and adults.

I am a fourth-year medical student at Yale who volunteers as a clinical team member at HAVEN Free Clinic. I care about this issue because I have seen the immense impact HUSKY has on my patients' wellbeing - as well as the impact lack of insurance has among others. Many patients at HAVEN do not have access to insurance. They are forced to jump through endless legislative hoops just to obtain basic health services. Healthcare - no matter who you are - should be a protected right. An individual should not have to fight to receive needed care.

Not only would HUSKY increase insurance coverage in our community - ensuring our residents have access to the healthcare they deserve - but it could also cut down on use of emergency or higher-grade services, potentially decreasing excess health spending. For these reasons, I believe expanding HUSKY would be a win-win for both patients and our community. I therefore support S.B. 284 and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation. Looking forward, I ask the committee to work towards opening access to all immigrants regardless of age.

Thank you for your time,
Emily Gudbranson